



New Mexico Bureau of Mines & Mineral Resources

Socorro, NM 87801

A DIVISION OF
NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING & TECHNOLOGY

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Mr. Donald J. Orth
Executive Secretary, Domestic Geographic Names
United States Board on Geographic Names
523 National Center
Reston, VA 22092

Dear Mr. Orth:

The proposed recognition of Carnuel and Rancheria Canyon and the distinction of the Manzanita Mountains and Manzano Mountains are welcome additions to maps in New Mexico. The other proposed names are also good, but need modifications in their descriptions. The primary problem is the application of "Sacramento Mountains" to mountains north of U.S. Highway 70. The mountains north and west of Ruidoso are separate (both topographically and geologically) from the Sacramento Mountains. The Sierra Blanca should be considered a separate mountain range with Sierra Blanca Peak as the highest elevation in the range. Similarly, Carrizo Mountain is a separate mountain between the Sierra Blanca to the southeast and the Jicarilla Mountains to the northwest. Therefore, the wording in the descriptions could be changed as follows:

Carrizo Mountain: mountain, highest elevation 2,928 m (9,605 ft), at Carrizo Peak, 14 km (9 mi) NE of Carrizozo and 33 km (20 mi) N of Ruidoso; * * * etc.

Rinconada Canyon: canyon, 16.9 km (10.5 mi) long, southwest of Sierra Blanca, heads at 33°19'41" N, 105°51'35" W, * * * etc.

Rinconada Creek: stream, 16.9 km (10.5 mi) long, heads on the southwest slopes of Sierra Blanca at 33°19'41" N, 105°51'35" W, * * * etc.

Temporal Creek: stream, 22.5 km (14 mi) long, begins at the junction of Rinconada Creek and an unnamed creek which flows through Dry Canyon, * * * etc.

Tularosa Creek: stream, 48 km (30 mi) long, heads in the northern Sacramento Mountains at Head Springs, * * * etc.

Ysletaño Canyon: canyon, 12.9 km (8 mi) long, heads in the northern Sacramento Mountains * * * etc.

Please let me know if you need further information concerning these features.

Sincerely yours,

David W. Love
Environmental Geologist

DWL:lm
cc: Kate Wickes